



The Numismatic Museum hosts a day of art and traditional festivities

On Sunday, island residents and visitors were invited to rediscover their roots during a day of “Hunga y Sina” (Playing and Learning) at the Aruba Numismatic Museum. The museum, which is located behind the bus station in Oranjestad, houses a collection of Aruban currency from not only the first coins and notes ever printed, but also prehistoric money in the form of shells and other objects from around the world. The Numismatic Museum is also home to a collection of beautiful first mints from over 400 countries, and historic coins dating back to the year 500 B.C.

During the days festivities Padu Lampe and Bernadina Growell, considered the “Mother and Father of Aruban Culture” awarded plaques of recognition to five Aruban youths for their community service and cultural contributions. This included John Francis Jacobs, singer and musician, Charella Lopez, singer and dancer and Carnival Roadmarch Queen, Ashley Groter, an international medal winner in all categories of Synchronized Swimming, and Adrienne Fraser, international gold medal winner for in swimming competitions. Mark Derrick Croes was also recognized for his social involvement and community activism. Sunday’s festivities included traditional dancers and singers and a painting contest for children sponsored by the Fondacion Movimiento di Arte Nobo Aruba. (M.A.N.A.) The officers of M.A.N.A., Maria Theresa Martinez and Stanley Dabian, with the assistance of artist Elvis Tromp, encouraged children of all ages to interpret and express visually the themes of some of the island’s most beloved tales that would be the equivalent of nursery rhymes. Fifteen of these couplets that are taught to the children at an early age were distributed, and the works were judged for creativity, artistic skill and fidelity to the theme of the story. It was a day for islanders to get in touch with their past, present and future, and rediscover the fascinating contents of the Numismatic Museum. Traditional music CD’s were also for sale, as were crafts from local artists, and native cuisine. It was a purely Aruban experience, and stimulated a great deal of interest in the populace for their traditional culture.